

Remarks

I. Status and Nature of the Amendment

Claims 1-11 are presently pending. Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication of the Allowability of these claims.

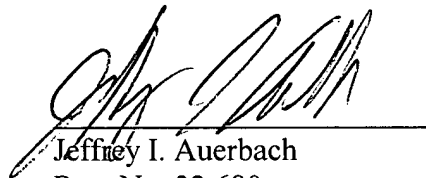
Applicants response corrects a typographical error in the filing date of Applicants' priority application. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

II. Concluding Remarks

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for a Notice of Allowance, and earnestly solicit early notice of such favorable action. The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned with respect to any issues regarding this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 5 - January - 2004
Liniak, Berenato & White, LLC
6550 Rock Spring Drive, Suite 240
Bethesda, MD 20817
Tel: (301) 896-0600 / Fax: (301) 896-0607



Jeffrey I. Auerbach
Reg. No. 32,680
Attorney for Assignee